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BLIND, CHINAMEN AND COLPORTEURS.

While I was in Peking I had a most interesting glimpse of the very newest experiment among the many benevolent efforts which are being made by good Christians all over this country for various classes of the neglected poor. This is one which has never before been attempted, or I should say even dreamt of, in China—namely, teaching the blind to read and write.

Considering the frightful difficulty of acquiring these arts, for men with full use of their eyes, the notion of initiating the blind into these mysteries might well stagger the most hopeful; yet it has been accomplished and reduced to a system of marvellous simplicity, by Mr. W. H. Murray, who introduced me to his first group of what I may term salvage from the slums of Peking.

We found them sitting together in a dark room, reading aloud, with unmistakable delight in their newly-acquired talent.

It struck me as intensely pathetic (as we stood on the threshold of that dark room, where, till a light was brought, I could distinguish nothing), to hear words which I knew to be those of the Chinese version of the Holy Scriptures, read by men who, less than four months ago, sat begging in the streets, in misery and rags, on the verge of starvation. Thence they were rescued by Mr. Murray as suitable subjects for his first effort in aid of the great sightless legions of China, and already they have mastered the arts, which in this land insure the respect of all classes.

But before I speak of the blind men, I must just tell you something of Mr. Murray himself, for he is a brother Scot of the true type which brings his country's name into good repute—a son whom the old country has good reason to hold in honour. As a specimen of what good may be done by a resolute spirit, resolved to conquer all difficulties, I think Mr. Murray's career is as fine an example as any I have ever heard of.

Having lost an arm by an accident in a saw-mill, he was disabled from following his original profession. He therefore sought and obtained employ-